

# Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



## Air Power

Quote of the Week

"The most important branch of aviation is pursuit, which fights for and gains control of the air."

—Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell

Vol. 50, No. 34

[www.laughlin.af.mil](http://www.laughlin.af.mil)

Sept. 6, 2002

## Day of infamy: *Laughlin remembers Sept. 11*

By 1st Lt. Paula Kurtz

Public affairs chief

There are certain moments that will be marked forever in time.

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The first time man set foot on the moon. The space shuttle Challenger explosion. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

These events are not marked simply by history, but individually, by nearly every citizen in America who is old enough to remember them. Ask anyone you know where they were when they heard the news, and chances are you'll hear a unique story. Ask anyone you know what they felt, or how they reacted, and the answers aren't so different.

Staff Sgt. Che Riley, a Military Working Dog handler with the 47th Security Forces Squadron, was

stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany Sept. 11. It was about 2 p.m. in the afternoon and Sergeant Riley was grabbing a late lunch at the base community center when he glanced at the television and saw pictures of a building on fire. He didn't pay it much mind at first, but as he waited for his lunch, the story continued to develop. Suddenly, there was a second building on fire, and the reporters began using the phrase "terrorist attack."

Only half believing the reporters could be right, Sergeant Riley collected his lunch and headed back to his dorm room. In the car he tuned his radio to the military's American Forces Network radio station where he continued to follow the story.

**See 'Memorial,' page 12**



Photo by Airman Heather Martin

This photo, taken by Airman Heather Martin, 47th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, shows a cross being erected in the cleared away area where the trade towers stood. The cross is made of metal scraps from the buildings.

## Texas Secretary of State scheduled to visit Laughlin



Shea

By Senior Airman  
Brad Pettit

Editor

Texas Secretary of State Gwyn Shea is scheduled to visit Laughlin Wednesday to encourage base military members, especially those under the age of 30, to take an active part in the voting process.

During the secretary's visit, she will give a voter registration presentation

beginning at 10 a.m. in the Anderson Hall auditorium. The presentation will deal primarily with influencing under-30 Laughlin military to exercise their right to vote, however all Laughlin members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Following this, she will conduct another presentation for base voting officers and counselors, helping them explore ways to influence young base voters to

participate in democracy.

After the presentations, the secretary will oversee voter registration in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

Shea is the 103rd Texas Secretary of State. She was appointed by Governor Rick Perry in January. The secretary has spent five terms in the Texas House of Representatives, during which she became the first woman in Texas history to sit on the

House Ways and Means Committee.

Lt. Col. Ron Stevens, Laughlin voting officer, said he appreciates the secretary's efforts in promoting voter registration.

"We at Laughlin appreciate the support and interest that the Texas Secretary of State is showing in traveling to Air Force bases and speaking to young potential voters," he said.

*The inside*  
**Scoop**

### Viewpoints:

The commander of Air Education and Training Command warns against improper Sept. 11 demonstrations.

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### News:

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 02-14 graduates in an Anderson Hall ceremony today.

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### Lifestyles:

A 47th Mission Support Squadron service member is featured as the Border Eagle XLER.

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## Countdown to ORI:

*13 weeks*



## Commanders' Corner

By Col. Paul Ackerley  
47th Operations Group commander

### Chain of command important; use it

Whenever I talk with newly assigned members of the 47th Operations Group, I tell them how lucky they are to be assigned at Laughlin. This is a wing that is focused on the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training mission and taking care of the 47th Flying Training Wing total force and families. The reality of our chain of command is that it is structured perfectly to do both very well.

First, this base has one boss – Col. Dan Woodward. There are no competing missions and no split command structures that put operations under one leadership chain and mission support under another. All mission and family support decisions flow to one commander. So assuming that the request is legal, not prohibited by law or regulation, can be supported financially and is the right thing to do; the chain of command is structured to make it happen and make it happen quickly.

Next, there are four colonels and a maintenance director that work directly for Colonel Woodward. At the

group commander and directorate level, we each have specific mission areas and a responsibility for the total force and families within our command. The senior leadership talks each day and is singularly focused on doing what is right to improve the SUPT mission and the daily life of those assigned to Laughlin.

Finally, there are 15 squadron commanders assigned at Laughlin. Similar to the colonels on base, each squadron commander knows each of the other squadron commanders personally. They understand their respective mission areas and are not hesitant to pick up the phone and collectively make improvements that improve the living and working environment at Laughlin. This is where the rubber meets the road. I would estimate that more than 80 percent of the refinements and improvements on this base occur through squadron commander initiative. They either collectively fix something or raise it up the chain of command to ensure senior officer involvement to fix a

problem area. I have never heard a squadron commander say something was too hard to do or not worth the effort. They, like you, want an environment at Laughlin that breathes mission success and sustained family support.

I close my talk by telling my newly assigned members that I can't guarantee a solution to every suggestion or request. What I can guarantee is that the chain of command will work to improve the mission and meet the needs of our families. If we can't make something happen because of laws or resource limitations, we will tell you. In spite of the let-down that you may feel, you will know the chain of command worked what was important to you with the same focus and commitment as if it was their own concern.

Bottom line – the chain of command is here to serve you. It is optimized at Laughlin to speedily respond to your needs. All you need to do is use the chain of command. Trust me, it works.

### Sept. 11 offers opportunity for solemn commemoration

#### View From the Top

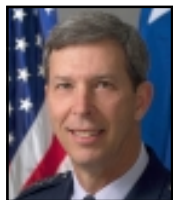


By Gen. Don Cook  
Air Education and Training  
Command commander

Sept. 11 is forever and indelibly imprinted on the national psyche as a day when the enemies of freedom attacked our country killing thousands of our citizens and changing our world forever.

As we approach the one-year observance of that tragic and horrific day, preparations throughout our great nation are underway to honor the memory of those innocent people who died and to rededicate ourselves to the cause of freedom and justice.

Memorial services and observances will be held in our nation's capital, in our great cities and in our small towns. Americans will come together on college



Gen. Cook

campuses; in our high schools, middle schools, and grade schools; in our churches, synagogues and mosques; on our military installations; and at our national monuments. They will come together to grieve and pay homage to those who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

There also will be gatherings that will focus on the perpetrators of these terrible terrorist acts. These gatherings may concentrate on symbolic acts to purge the evil wrought against our country. Although such demonstrations may be permissible under the laws of the land, they have the potential of inadvertently degenerating into demonstrations against particular ethnic groups and religious followers.

Our desire, responsibility, and I dare say our need to memorialize those who died on Sept. 11 can take many forms, but participating in any demonstration that maligns a particular ethnic group or religion, that sensationalizes acts of vengeance, and attempts to precipitate

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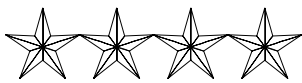
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Submissions can be e-mailed to:  
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**“Excellence –  
not our goal, but  
our  
standard.”  
– 47th FFW motto**





By Gen. John P. Jumper  
Air Force Chief of Staff



Gen. Jumper

# America's security now a global issue

At the beginning of the 21st Century the United States faces a dynamic and evolving security environment. America's security is now truly a global issue and the men and women of the United States Air Force are tasked to meet that challenge. We find ourselves executing an expeditionary concept that focuses us on the business of rapid deployment in response to conditions ranging from humanitarian assistance to full-scale conflict. The expeditionary air and space force concept describes who we are today and where we're going tomorrow.

Post-September 11th operations reinforce the reality that future missions and contingencies will require greater sophistication and understanding of our international security environment. Just as we need pilots, intelligence specialists, satellite operators and jet engine mechanics, our expeditionary force requires airmen with international insight,

foreign language proficiency and cultural understanding. Recent operations underscore our need to establish a cadre of professionals proficient in foreign languages and area studies – men and women who have the right skill sets to shape events and rapidly respond to worldwide contingencies. These skills are true force multipliers and essential to our ability to operate globally.

Developing such a global cadre will require a much-needed "culture change." To that end, I strongly encourage the pursuit of such skill sets and experiences through regional/international

***"Post-September 11th operations reinforce the reality that future missions and contingencies will require greater sophistication and understanding of our international security environment."***

studies degree programs, foreign languages, and overseas assignments. I expect commanders to fully support and emphasize the importance of this to their charges. To be truly successful at sustaining coalitions, pursu-

ing regional stability and contributing to multinational operations, our expeditionary forces must have sufficient capability and depth in foreign area expertise and language skills.

I urge each of you to develop tomorrow's expeditionary airmen. America's security depends upon it.

## 'Sept. 11,' from page 2

unconstructive hate and violence only denigrates the memory of those who sacrificed so much in the name of freedom. Our nation was built on tolerance and justice for all.

On this solemn anniversary, let each of us build on that noble and strong foundation by showing our respect and reverence for our fellow citizens, citizens from around the world, and service men and women who fell under the blade of hatred, and before the enemies of freedom. Let us not stoop to the level of our enemies by burning flags and effigies or otherwise fanning the fires of hatred. We, the American people, and we the members of the United States Air Force hold ourselves to higher standards. Let our actions on Sept. 11 tell the world who we are and what we stand for: freedom, justice and equality for all.

In the past 12 months, the resolve of the

American people has risen from the ashes of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93. We are more determined than ever to wipe terrorism from the face of the earth, because we cannot forget the images of that day.

The men and women of Air Education and Training Command are fully engaged in that battle. Many of our people have and will continue to deploy to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. And every day, we recruit, train and educate the finest men and women our nation has to offer to sustain the combat capabilities of the mightiest Air Force in the world.

We will most appropriately honor those who died on Sept. 11 by our noble service to the nation and its people. We will also honor those courageous Americans who have died in combat fighting for freedom. We will most suitably remember them on the first anniversary of the attack by our reverence and solemn vigilance to persevere in this fight.

## Actionline

298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.



Col. Dan Woodward  
47th Flying Training Wing commander

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| AAFES                        | 298-3176 |
| Accounting and Finance       | 298-5204 |
| Civil Engineer               | 298-5252 |
| Civilian Personnel           | 298-5299 |
| Commissary                   | 298-5815 |
| Dormitory manager            | 298-5213 |
| Equal Employment Opportunity | 298-5879 |
| FWA hotline                  | 298-4170 |
| Hospital                     | 298-6311 |
| Housing                      | 298-5904 |
| Information line             | 298-5201 |
| Legal                        | 298-5172 |
| Military Equal Opportunity   | 298-5400 |
| Military Personnel           | 298-5073 |
| Public Affairs               | 298-5988 |
| Security Forces              | 298-5900 |
| Services                     | 298-5810 |

## Airmanship

*Intended to help all airmen articulate the Air Force's vision of aerospace power*

### What is an area of responsibility?

An area of responsibility, or more often AOR, is a defined geographic space directly associated with particular combatant commands. The combatant commander has the authority to plan and conduct operations in this space.

## 87th FTS flies at game

Those watching the kickoff in Sunday’s game between the Miami Dolphins and Detroit Lions are encouraged to keep an eye out for a T-38 flyover performed by Laughlin pilots during opening ceremonies at noon Central Daylight Time.

## ORI preparation

All unit training managers should conduct informal section visits to ensure documentation on Air Force Form 623, OJT Record, is in accordance with Air Force standards. Get everyone who needs training scheduled for it. All required training should be scheduled no later than 30 days prior to the ORI kickoff, but not necessarily accomplished by then.

Review all training records. Are all assigned individuals correctly certified and documented to perform each duty? Have all certifiers and trainers attended the Air Force Training Course or the equivalent? Are the certifiers and trainers appointed in writing by the squadron commander?

A good article on the administration of the OJT training program is in “TIG Brief” dated Jan-February 2000. This can be accessed via the Air Force Inspection Agency website at [afia.kirtland.af.mil](mailto:afia.kirtland.af.mil).

## Lumpia demonstration

A lumpia demonstration will be held for the Enlisted Spouses Club at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. Menie Aseron will teach the ESC how to make lumpia (Filipino egg rolls). All enlisted spouses are invited to attend.

For details, call 298-2180 or 298-1251.

## Cub Scouts

The season for Laughlin’s Cub Scout Pack No. 204 begins Sept. 23. Meetings will be held every Monday at the Chapel Fellowship Hall. All military and civilian families with first through fifth grade boys are welcome to join the pack.

For details, call Greg Dennis at 298-2065 or Tech. Sgt. David Drotts at 298-3475.

## Base firing range

The 47th Security Forces Squadron is now making the base firing range available for off-duty military and civilian firing. The recreational shooting day is the first Saturday of each month. Hours for this open-range time are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Reservations must be made at least one week before the scheduled range date by calling 298-5151. People interested in shooting are encouraged to call the day before the scheduled recre-

# Newsline

ational shooting day, as military training requirements may necessitate the cancellation of these sessions.

Shooters and spectators must provide their own weapons, ammunition, targets, method to attach targets to cardboard (staple gun, tape etc.) and safety equipment (eye and ear protection). An adult must accompany dependents under age 18.

For details, call Tech. Sgt. Randall Tyree or Tech. Sgt. Keith Hellwig at 298-5151.

## Chapel events/programs

The chapel is planning a brief interfaith memorial service at the chapel from noon to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 11. Hymns will be sung, children will recite the Pledge of Allegiance, prayers and scripture reading will be conducted, along with a brief homily. The chapel will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for those who want to pray and a candle burning will be held on the altar.

■ The Christian Women Fellowship will meet from 9 to 11 a.m. Sept. 14 in the chapel fellowship hall. The topic is “Maintaining Spiritual Excellence in Christ.”

For more information, call 298-1351.

■ Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday evenings beginning Sept. 12 in the Chapel Fellowship Hall.

RCIA is for those that are interested in becoming Catholic, learning more about the Catholic faith or who were baptized Catholic and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation or the Eucharist.

All are welcome, even those that are merely curious of Catholic practices. For details, call the Chapel at 298-5111 or Rob and Jennifer Seaberg at 298-7691.

## Medical group closure

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for training from 1 to 5 p.m. Sept. 19, Oct. 24 and Nov. 21. The training is essential to maintain the medical group’s ability to respond to mission and wartime requirements.

During the designated training times:

■ The pharmacy will be closed. Please plan to pick up any prescriptions or refills before 12:30 p.m. or the following day.

■ Afternoon dental and medical sick call will not be available.

■ The Nurse Triage Line will not be available.

■ The Tricare Service Center will be open.

If you require any medical treatment during

this time, pursue it as if it were a weekend or holiday:

■ If you have a medical emergency, report to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Emergency Room.

■ For other care, call 1-800-406-2832

For details, call Capt. Dawnita Parkinson at 298-6309.

## Compost pick up

Military family housing and mobile home park occupants are reminded that compost pick up is the first and third Monday of each month.

For more information, call David Pugh at 298-5957.

## Talent show tryouts

The fall talent show is scheduled for Oct. 5. Tryouts will be held at 6 p.m. Monday at the Fiesta Community Center. If you or someone you know wants to tryout for Tops in Blue, you should participate in this talent show to prepare for taping.

Denise Rossignol will again direct the show and will be running the audition process. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with lights, backstage, sound, etc., should call Denise at 298-4187 or Helen Sykes at 298-5224.

## Screening and luncheon

The osteoporosis screening and luncheon for Sept. 6 has been canceled. It is rescheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 27 at Club XL.

For more information, call the Health and Wellness Center at 298-6464.

## Mouth guards available

The 47th Medical Group dentist office will make custom athletic mouth guards by appointment Wednesday for active-duty family members and Sept. 13 for active duty members.

To schedule an appointment, call 298-6331.

## Shuttle bus service

The 47th Logistics Division will provide a trial on-base shuttle service from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Sept. 13.

Continuous service will be provided at the 47th Contracting Squadron, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, 47th Mission Support Squadron, Cactus Bowling Lanes, Chaparral Dining Facility, 47th Security Forces Squadron, enlisted housing, clinic, Club XL, officer’s housing, visiting officers’ quarters, radar approach control, base exchange, hangar 4, Anderson Hall, wing headquarters building, maintenance operations center, hangar 2 and logistics.

For more information, call 298-5763.



# New commander takes reins of 47th Security Forces Squadron

## Compiled from staff reports

Team XL recently welcomed a new commander to the 47th Security Forces Squadron.

Maj. David Abercrombie assumed command of the 47th SFS during a change-of-command ceremony July 31.

### Abercrombie

**Hometown:** Nashville, Tenn.

**Time in service:** 16 years

**Education:** Bachelor's degree, United States Air Force Academy, Colo.; master's degree, St. Leo

College, Fla.

### Previous assignments:

March Air Force Base, Calif.; Yokota Air Base, Japan; MacDill AFB, Fla.; Robins AFB, Ga.; United Nations Mission, Iraq; Pentagon, Washington D.C.

**Greatest feat:** To be determined, but I am pretty proud of my marathon finishes because there was no pressure to do them except what I put on myself.

### Leadership philosophy:

Lead, follow or get out of the way.

**Personal hero:** My dad – always



Abercrombie

**Favorite quote:** Just wait 'til Second Beast."

**Hobbies:** Running and writing

**Bad habit:** Waiting a little too long to bathe my dog

# Personnel official clarifies AETC BDU cap, patch policy

The deputy director of personnel for Air Education and Training Command sent a message to the field Tuesday to clarify the command wear policy for battle dress uniform caps and patches.

"With the upcoming restructuring of our wings into the objective wing, there have been several concerns regarding the wearing and acquisition of new patches and organizational hats," wrote Col. Michael Miller in the message.

The message reiterates current AETC policy on the wear of BDU items as follows:

**Organizational baseball caps:** People can wear woodland pattern baseball-style caps, with or without a meshed back, in addition to the issue BDU cap. The person's unit may be identified on the cap by a combination of black numbers and letters, a maximum of two inches high, designating organizations at squadron level and above.

Lightning bolts, clouds, dart designs, badges, emblems or colored baseball caps are not authorized for wear in AETC.

In addition, the issue BDU cap is the only headgear authorized for wear with BDUs during exercises, contingencies or deployments.

One exception to this policy is that command inspector general team members may wear dark blue IG caps for the period of an inspection. A second exception allows combat arms personnel to wear red caps while on the firing range.

This guidance does not affect people who wear berets, such as security forces personnel. Those members should follow the wear guidance in Tables 3.4 and 3.6 of Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, the colonel said.

**Patches:** Subdued, sewn-on AETC command emblem patches will be worn on the right breast pocket centered between the left and right edges and the bottom of the flap and the bottom of the pocket. Subdued, sewn-on wing patches will be worn on the left breast pocket, centered between the left and right edges and the bottom of the flap and the bottom of the pocket.

One exception to this policy allows people who are authorized to wear the Air Force recruiter badge, security police shield, fire protection shield or missile badge. They can wear those devices on the left breast pocket in place of the wing emblem.

Installation commanders may authorize subdued sewn-on unit emblems for wear centered one half inch above the name tape over the right breast pocket. Emblems worn in this location must be subordinate to emblems worn on the left pocket. People authorized to wear the PME badge or AETC instructor badge may place it above the right pocket instead of the unit emblem. People assigned to PME will wear the PME badge in lieu of the AETC instructor badge.

**Morale patches:** Morale patches are not authorized for wear in AETC. Morale patches include, but are not limited to, specialty patches such as Prime Beef, Prime Rib or Response Force or competition patches such as Gunsmoke, William Tell or Giant Sword. Also, recognition patches such as the Hennessy, Daedalian, Journeyman or various technician awards are not authorized for wear.



Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

## Every vote counts

Staff Sgt. William Bartram, 47th Operations Support Squadron flight records NCO in charge, gets the word out about voter participation to Capt. Steve Cox, student pilot, during voter registration at Anderson Hall Thursday. Another voter registration will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. today in Anderson Hall.

Please recycle this newspaper.



Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

### Helping hands

Master Sgt. Revonda Rials, 96th Flying Training Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Ray Coffman, 47th Communications Squadron, return furniture to the newly refinished patio decks at the enlisted dorms Tuesday. The wing Top 3 “Strike Team” reconditioned and refinished both patio decks. This project and the reconditioning of the volleyball court next to the enlisted dorms were selected as quality-of-life issues to benefit dorm residents.

## 47th OSS gets new commander

### Compiled from staff reports

Team XL recently welcomed a new commander to the 47th Operations Support Squadron.

Lt. Col. Robert Craven assumed command of the 47th OSS during a change-of-command ceremony Aug. 26.

#### Craven

**Hometown:** Marion, Ohio  
**Time in service:** 20 years, 5 months

**Education:** Bachelor’s degree in aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; master’s degree in aeronautical science from

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Squadron Officers School in residence; Air Command and Staff College seminar; and Air War College seminar

**Previous assignments:** Ft. Rucker, Ala.; Ft. Brag, N.C.; Vance AFB, Okla.; RAF Woodbridge, United Kingdom; Williams AFB, Ariz.; Randolph AFB; Kadena Air Base, Japan; Hickam AFB, Hawaii; and Laughlin AFB

**Greatest feat:** Becoming an officer in the Air Force

**Leadership philosophy:** Take care of your people and the mission will take care of itself.

**Personal hero:** My wife



Craven

**Favorite quote:** “Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there” – Will Rogers

**Hobbies:** Car care and road trips

**Bad habit:** Pizza and popcorn



# SUPT Class 02-14 members graduate today,

Compiled from staff reports

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 02-14 graduates at 10 a.m. today in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

The 52-week SUPT program prepares student pilots for the spectrum of Air Force aircraft and flying missions.

Training begins with three weeks of physiological and academic training to prepare students for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine, subsonic T-37 “Tweet.” In the T-37, students learn flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and

landing, aerobatics and formation flying.

After primary training, the future pilots are selected for advanced in-flight training in a specialized track.

The tracks include tanker and cargo aircraft training in the T-1 aircraft; fighter/bomber training in the T-38; turbo propeller aircraft training in the Navy’s T-44; and helicopter training in the Army’s UH-1.

Advanced training in a track takes 26 weeks.

Graduates of Class 02-14 have been assigned to aircraft at duty stations throughout the world.



*Maj. Gen. James E. Sandstrom, Air Education and Training Command 19th Air Force commander, will be the guest speaker at the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 02-14 graduation ceremony.*



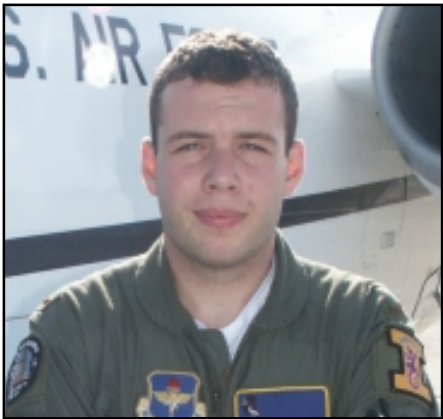
**Capt. Richard Corbett** (*Class leader*)  
KC-10, Travis Air Force Base, Calif. (AFRES)



**1st Lt. Trevor Smith** (*Assistant class leader*)  
F-15E, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.



**2nd Lt. Clint Amy**  
F-16C, Houston (ANG)



**2nd Lt. Thomas Banker**  
KC-135, Fairchild AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Christian Burkey**  
C-9, Scott AFB, Ill.



**2nd Lt. Robert Diaz**  
KC-10, Travis AFB, Calif.



**2nd Lt. Michael Fulton**  
KC-135, Mildenhall AB, Great Britain



**2nd Lt. Justin Ginther**  
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Jesse Hamilton**  
B-1, Dyess AFB



**2nd Lt. Neal Hinson**  
T-6, Moody AFB, Ga.



**2nd Lt. Steven James**  
C-21, Yokota Air Base, Japan



**2nd Lt. William Jimenez**  
KC-135, McConnell AFB, Kan.



## transition from students to Air Force pilots



**2nd Lt. Eric Kilburg**  
F-16C, Iowa (ANG)



**2nd Lt. Daniel Lehoski**  
F-15C, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Justin Longmire**  
C-5, Dover AFB, Dela.



**2nd Lt. Grant Ludeman**  
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Manning**  
T-6, Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Kellie Morris**  
KC-10, McGuire AFB, N.J. (AFRES)



**2nd Lt. Brian Palmer**  
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



**2nd Lt. Sean Penrod**  
F-16C, Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Nathan Phillips**  
C-21, Ramstein AB, Germany



**2nd Lt. Robert Radanof**  
C-17, Jackson, Miss. (ANG)



**2nd Lt. Richard Schafer III**  
F-16C, Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Jonathan Somogyi**  
T-6, Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Terri Torres**  
C-130, Channel Islands, Calif. (ANG)



**2nd Lt. Darrell Walton**  
A-10, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Travis Wheeler**  
WC-130, Keesler AFB, Miss. (AFRES)



# Future leave issues to be handled on Web

**By Senior Airman Ben Smith**  
*47th Comptroller Flight*  
*LeaveWeb program coordinator*

Leave. This entitlement allows every Air Force member to take time off and enjoy vacation with family or friends. But have you considered the time you spend completing the Air Force Form 988, obtaining approval from your approving official/supervisor, and then getting a leave authorization number from your unit leave monitor?

Most, if not all actions, require you to walk from office to office to obtain leave approval. Then, upon your return, you have to go through the whole process again. How would you like a simpler system? Well, the 47th Comptroller Flight has the answer for you – it’s called LeaveWeb!

LeaveWeb is a web-based leave request, approval and tracking system. It allows any member with a web browser the ability to review leave information, request and obtain approval for ordinary leave. It will eventually replace the AF Form 988 when all leave types are incorpo-

rated. I know what most people say – “Another system that creates work for me, while reducing the workload for someone else!” LeaveWeb is not that way. It can save everyone time.

LeaveWeb allows each member to use a simple web browser to request and obtain approval for leave without using Formflow or printing a paper form. Member information is automatically displayed, allowing the member to select the dates of leave, leave address and the AO they choose to approve their leave. When your leave request is submitted, the system will assign a tracking number and automatically e-mail your AO with a link to approve the leave request. The unit leave monitor will then validate or return your leave. When the leave monitor validates your leave request, you and the AO will receive another email notifying you of the approval with your leave authorization number. Upon return, the process is just as simple. You click “no change” or input any changes to the leave you originally requested.

LeaveWeb provides many more

advantages that members don’t see. The unit leave monitor no longer needs to manually track and reconcile leaves each day from finance printed products. LeaveWeb automatically reconciles all leaves for all units. This automated system also provides the unit commander with advanced leave management features and effective tracking controls.

LeaveWeb has gone through rigorous testing and concept approval stages, including GAO approval to replace the signature requirement with a User ID and Password. The Air Force Audit Agency has been heavily involved in each step and sees incredible advantages with LeaveWeb to save considerable time and money. Two Scott Air Force Base enlisted people initiated the LeaveWeb concept approximately two years ago. Its development and testing has been very successful and has undergone Headquarters Air Mobility Command unit testing at Scott AFB, Bolling AFB and the Pentagon. Customers at those bases praised the system’s simplicity and ease of use.

Staff Sgt. Darryl Jordan, 47th Mission Support Group commander’s support staff NCO in charge couldn’t agree more. After a recent demonstration of the system, Jordan said, “Excellent, I love it! It’s so much better than the old cumbersome paper process. Our biggest issue with the current process is chasing down people to complete Part III of their leave forms when they return from leave. LeaveWeb automates this process for us by e-mail reminder notifications when the leave is completed. I can’t wait until it we get it!”

Until recently, Luke AFB was the only base within AETC with the new system. But AETC began a rigorous implementation schedule in August to have the system in place command-wide by mid-October. Laughlin is slated for implementation the week of Sept. 16.

More information on LeaveWeb may be found on the LeaveWeb Project Management Office website at <https://www.amcfm.scott.af.mil/leavewebsurvey/lwpmo.html> or by calling 298-5782.



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## Sept. 11 paintings unveiled at Pentagon ceremony

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty

*Air Force Print News*

When Air Force Art Program officials commissioned artist Rick Herter to create two large-scale paintings depicting America’s response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Herter envisioned images that would help to dispel any thoughts that the country had been unprepared.

The paintings, titled “First Pass, Defenders Over Washington” and “Ground Zero, Eagles on Station,” were unveiled Sept. 4 by Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Jumper commended the artist for his work, adding that the work is a tribute to those who have flown combat patrols since Sept. 11.

“The power of Rick’s art captures the spirit of the Air Force’s response to the attacks on the morning of Sept. 11,” Jumper said. “In those airplanes were Air Force pilots who had to contemplate doing the unthinkable, and that is having to confront one of our own airplanes, over our own skies and filled with our own citizens, but flown by terrorists. His art does justice to the many men and women who have flown vigilantly over the skies of America since Sept. 11.”

Herter is quick to point out that the airplanes he shows in his art were airborne before the hijacked airplanes struck their targets.

“What I want these paintings to show was our response that morning was quick and rapid,” Herter said. “If you look at the timelines and do the research, you’ll see that the Air Force had planes in the air before the airliners impacted the buildings. Our guys were there. This is something that no one could have prepared for, but once it happened, our Air Force had the skies secured and protected.”

Herter is well known in the Air Force for doing realistic portrayals and paying great attention to detail. He is a member of the Air Force Art Program and several of his paintings are already displayed on the walls in the Pentagon. Because of his reputation and talent, Herter was selected as the artist to recreate the view of Sept. 11 from the airman’s perspective, said Russell Kirk, Air Force Art Program director.

Herter put more than 700 hours of work into the paintings over the past 10 months. Corporate sponsorship from Boeing and Rolls Royce allowed him to devote all his time to the project.

The painting “First Pass, Defenders Over Washington” shows Capt. Dean Eckman of the North Dakota Air National Guard’s 119th Fighter Wing as he arrives over the nation’s capital and makes his first pass over the Pentagon. In the painting “Ground Zero, Eagles on Station,” Lt. Col. Tim Duffy of the Massachusetts Air National Guard’s 102nd Fighter Wing makes a turn over the World Trade Center at about 3,000 feet.

The paintings are now part of the Air Force Art Program collection and will be displayed in the Pentagon on the walls of the 9th corridor between the “C” and “D” Rings.



# Laughlin people remember Sept. 11 terrorist attacks



Photo by Airman Heather Martin

Visitors to the site of World Trade Towers terrorist attacks look at the prayers, names and messages written to the victims and their families on a piece of cloth draped along a fence near the site.

## 'Memorial,' from page 1

Only after he heard the news that the Pentagon had been hit did Sergeant Riley believe America was under attack.

"It didn't set in until the Pentagon got hit," said Riley, who returned to his dorm room and waited patiently by the phone for his unit's recall to begin.

Half a world away, the day was just beginning for Master Sergeant Brad Hopkins. It was business as usual in the 47th Operations Support Squadron weather station until someone pointed at the television and said, "Hey, look at this..."

Tuning in just after the airliner hit the first tower, Sergeant Hopkins wondered the same thing others were asking. Could it just be a gross navigational error? It seemed hard to believe.

When the second tower exploded, the superintendent of weather operations knew something was wrong.

"It was terrible to be sitting and watching this unfold 1,700 miles away, knowing there's not a thing you could do about it," Sergeant Hopkins said.

Before the initial shock had worn

off, new reports focused on an explosion at the heart of America's military defense — the Pentagon.

"How much further was this going to go?" Sergeant Hopkins wondered. "How many more can we expect?"

The same questions were undoubtedly on everyone's minds.

Fortunately for Sergeants Riley and Hopkins, the tragedy of the day did not reach a personal level. Neither had friends or family members anywhere close to the sites of attack. Neither had to deal with the extreme emotional distress that comes with the thought of losing someone close to you. Neither had to deal with the anxiety of not knowing...

Col. Dan Woodward wasn't that lucky.

On Sept. 11, Colonel Woodward was running his 300-person unit through a series of chemical and biological exercise scenarios as the deployed forces commander at Warner Robins Air Force Base, Ga. At about 9:15 a.m., an airman approached the colonel, carrying a small, hand-held television. The first plane had just hit the World Trade Center tower.

"We thought it was just a light plane," said Colonel Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander. "We had no idea that it was an airliner."

Minutes later, the second plane hit its target.

"At that point it was obvious that we had some type of terrorist activity going on," Colonel Woodward recalled. "I called the IG and shut down the exercise, but kept people in place."

Within minutes there was a new report...the Pentagon had been hit. Initial reports said it was the south

side...the side where his wife, Col. Maggie Woodward, served as director of the Air Force Plans and Operations Commander's Action Group.

"That's the first time it was really driven home to me that we were under attack as a country," Colonel Woodward said.

Realizing that others under his command might have friends and family at the Pentagon as he did, Colonel Woodward called a camp meeting. After sharing the news of the attacks, Woodward asked those with friends and family at the Pentagon or World Trade Center to raise their hands and dispatched the first sergeant to take care of their needs.

Woodward then took steps to shut down the armory, account for all weapons and equipment and redeploy his unit to the main base under the control of his deputy as he took up his standard position as support group commander at the wing battle staff.

For the next two hours, the group poured over checklists as they put the new force protection conditions into effect and implemented stringent security measures.

Colonel Woodward looked up as a lady walked into the battle staff carrying a note. Spying him across the room, she walked over and

handed him the small slip of paper. It said, "Your wife is okay."

"I still have that note, and I'll never get rid of it," the colonel said.

Due to their new demanding work schedules

in the aftermath of the attacks, it would be nearly two months before Colonel Woodward would actually see his wife again.

Back in Germany, Sergeant Riley worked his share of long shifts after the attacks as well. But it wasn't until he arrived at Laughlin that the events of that day really came to bear on him.

In March 2002, with only six

weeks on station, Sergeant Riley reluctantly deployed to an air base in Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom — America's military response to the terrorists' strike.

"I wasn't real happy about going at first," Sergeant Riley admits. "I was still trying to get settled in to my new base."

Once he arrived, however, things changed. Sergeant Riley was assigned to the "search pit" with his military working dog. The K-9 team worked 12-hour shifts searching vehicles for explosives and ammunition.

"I got over there and really got into the mission and enjoyed myself," Sergeant Riley said. "I was glad I was there, supporting the mission."

Sergeant Hopkins shares Riley's sentiments. Hopkins deployed in January to spend six months at a small "tent city" base in Pakistan in support of OEF.

Comparing the experience to his 1990 deployment to Oman, Sergeant Hopkins pointed out several differences, the key one being security.

"The threat was greater this time," Sergeant Hopkins said. "In Oman we could go off base and see some of the country. This time, we knew the bad guys were out there trying to kill us."

Despite the threat, Sergeant Hopkins said he was proud to take part in the response to the terrorists.

"It's just like Pearl Harbor," Sergeant Hopkins said. "We'll do what we need to do and press on. We're taking it (the fight) to them and I'm happy to be a part of that."

As the Sept. 11 anniversary date approaches, Sergeants Hopkins and Riley are looking to the future and possibilities rather than focusing on past losses.

Sergeant Riley plans to mark the date by renewing his military oath and re-enlisting. Sergeant Hopkins looks forward to finishing his master's degree before settling into retirement and starting a new chapter in his life.

"You can't worry about tomorrow," said Sergeant Hopkins. "You just have to take each day as it comes and live life to the fullest."

***"It was terrible to be sitting and watching this unfold 1,700 miles away, knowing there's not a thing you could do about it."***

-- Master Sgt. Brad Hopkins  
47th Operations Support Squadron

Chapel  
Schedule



Catholic

Saturday

Sunday

Thursday

Reconciliation

Religious Education

● 5 p.m., Mass

● 9:30 a.m., Mass

● 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall

● 6 p.m., Choir

● By appointment

● 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

● Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

● Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

Friday

Every day

● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Services

● 12 to 1 p.m., sweet hour of prayer

Protestant

Saturday

Sunday

● 6 p.m., Singles Bible study

● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school

● 11 a.m., General worship

● 6 p.m., Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238 for details.

Wednesday

● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study, children welcome

● 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

The *XL*er

Hometown:

Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Family:

Sons, Stephen, 15, and David, 11

Time at Laughlin:

1 year, 1 month

Time in service:

8 years, 8 months

Greatest accomplishment:

Earning a line number for technical sergeant in above-average time

Hobbies:

Since arriving at Laughlin... reading, watching music videos and traveling

Bad habit:

Eating sinful foods and promising to exercise

Favorite film:

Love Jones

Favorite musicians:

Mary J. Blige, Jerzee Monet and Patti LaBelle

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?

My father. I don’t get to spend as much time with him as I would like. He is the wisest man I know. Being retired military, he understands the challenges I face as a military member. He is a great listener and offers the most profound and sound advice a daughter could ask for.



Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

Staff Sgt. Karen Lewis

47th Mission Support Squadron

permanent party assignments NCO In Charge



# Football fans to get glimpse of military sacrifices

**By Jim Garamone**  
*American Forces Press Service*

Throughout the upcoming season, American football fans will get a glimpse of the sacrifices the men and women of the armed forces make.

The National Football League is sponsoring “American Postcards,” a series of profiles to be broadcast during regular and post-season games.

“About 120 million people watch an NFL game each weekend,” said Allison Barber, a Pentagon spokeswoman. “Our goal is to allow men and women across America to be able to feel a connection to our military members.”

Barber said NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue came up with the idea in early August.

“What they had in mind was just regular stories of military folks who had written letters home, or who have e-mailed or who have found unique

ways to communicate with their families,” she said.

NFL Films chose stories from suggestions from the Defense Department and the services – including two stories featured on [www.DefendAmerica.gov](http://www.DefendAmerica.gov). The spots are scheduled to began airing Thursday during the New York Giants vs. the San Francisco 49ers game on ESPN. The spots will also run during NFL games broadcast on CBS, Fox and ABC.

NFL Films traveled to Afghanistan to speak with servicemembers and to stateside hometowns to speak with family members and friends.

One spot features Airman Amy Ting. On Sept. 11 last year, she was a civilian and in the Marriott Hotel across the street from the World Trade Center. She enlisted the week following the attack. The NFL crew filmed Ting on duty at Do-

ver Air Force Base, Del. There are other spots featuring members of the Army and Marines.

Plans are for future spots to feature servicemembers based in the Persian Gulf, aboard ship and across the United States.

“In the midst of a football game, we want people to pause and recognize that every minute of every day, someone is defending our country,” Barber said.

She said a secondary DOD goal is for people to become excited about the military. “It’s not a recruiting campaign in any way,” she said. “But it is an education campaign.”

Barber said the NFL is just the latest in a long list of organizations that have contacted the Defense Department looking for ways to support the men and women of the military.

**Thinking about getting out? Think again!**

Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.

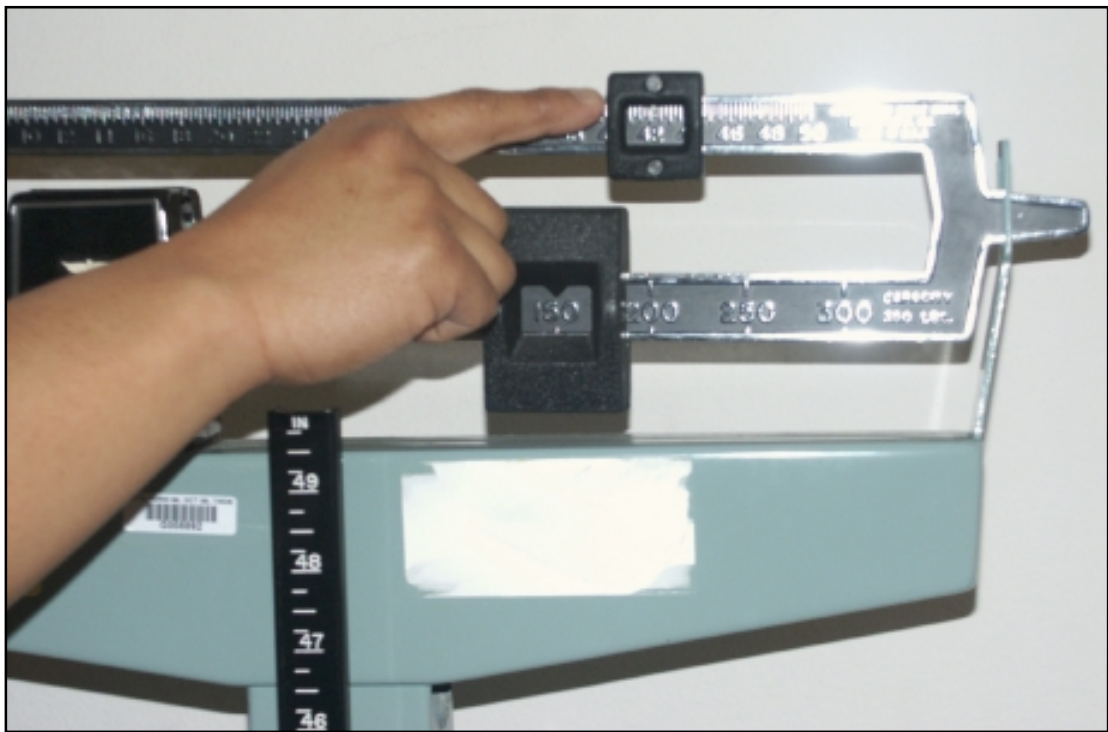


Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

Air Force members are required to meet certain health and fitness guidelines. In order to help airmen achieve these standards, a weight management program is in place at Laughlin.

# Weight management program works to reduce number of overweight airmen

**By Airman Yvonne Conde**  
*Staff writer*

Although the Air Force has weight and physical fitness standards in place, there are still dwindling amounts of Laughlin airmen who do not comply with the guidelines.

As a result of the airmen who do not meet Air Force guidelines, Laughlin offers a program to reduce the number of overweight airmen.

“We have this program to motivate all members to participate in a year-round physical conditioning program,” said Paulette Babin, 47th Mission Support Squadron weight management monitor. “It emphasizes total fitness to meet mission requirements and deliver a fit and healthy force and community.”

The weight management program is available for those who do not meet the fitness standards in Air Force Instruction 40-501. Every Air Force member is required to have a weight assessment at least once each calendar year to ensure they are in compliance.

Ideally, an individual stays on the program from six months to a year, but it all depends on the individuals and how fast they progress, said Babin.

“The program is successful. It has to be. If not, members become ineligible for re-enlistment and promotion testing.”

Throughout the year, the health and wellness center also offers different types of programs for active-duty and retired military members and dependents, said Babin.

The XL Fitness Center also is available to provide a place for aerobics, weight lifting, 5K runs, nautilus, racquetball and basketball. And according to Babin, some other units also are being proactive and conducting their own physical training programs.

To be physically fit, the member must maintain motivation to follow the dietary advice and continue the exercise program, said Babin.

“Members must maintain a healthy lifestyle during and after the program,” she said.

***“The program is successful. It has to be. If not, members become ineligible for re-enlistment and promotion testing.”***

-- Paulette Babin  
*47th Mission Support Squadron weight management monitor*

# Sportslines

## Pool tournament winners

The Fiesta Community Center recently held a pool tournament. The winners of the tournament were David McCracken, first place; Kelly Marsden, second; and Ramon Martinez, third.

## Soccer forms

Air Force Form 303 is due today to the XL Fitness Center for those interested in playing men’s soccer for the Air Force team.

For more information, call the XL Fitness Center at 298-5251.

## 10K Nature Trot

A 10K Nature Trot will be held at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 14. To sign up, call the XL Fitness Center at 298-5251.

## Yoga classes

The health and wellness center is hosting prenatal yoga classes from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the HAWC classroom.

The classes will include a 10-minute introduction and warm up, 20-minute yoga/stretch, 15-minute strengthening/muscle toning and 15-minute relaxation techniques.

Classes are free. The instructor has certifications in prenatal fitness, power stretch and yoga.

Participants should take comfortable clothing, a yoga mat, pillow and plenty of water to class.

For more information, call the HAWC at 298-6464.

## Fun walk

A Breast Health Awareness Fun Run/Walk is scheduled for 8 a.m. Oct. 11 beginning and ending at the football field. Winners in the male and female category of the 5K run will receive a health and wellness center prize package. The first 75 registered runners will receive T-shirts.

For more information, call the XL Fitness Center at 298-5251.

**Interested in the  
Air Force? Call  
Del Rio’s Air Force  
recruiter at  
774-0911.**